(c) No, Sir. The average turn-round time for ships at Visakhapatnam Port during the period April—February, 1993-94 was 6.10 days as against 7.34 days during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) Does not arise.

प्रकाश टन्डन समिति के प्रतिवेदन का कार्यान्वयन

*527. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे में सुधार हेतु सुझाव देने के लिये नियुक्त प्रकाश टंडन समिति ने अपना प्रतिवेदन सरकार को सौंप दिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रतिवेदन कब सौंपा गया था और क्या सरकार ने उसे कार्यान्वित करने का निर्णय कर लिया है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में की जा रही कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) स्वीकृत सिफारिशों को अधिकतम किस अवधि तक कार्यान्वित करने की संभावना है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाफ़र शरीफ़) : (क) से (घ) रिपोर्ट मार्च, 1994 में प्रस्तुत की गई थी। ग्रुप "ए" सेवा में भर्ती के एकीकरण और क्षेत्रीय रेलों को शक्तियां अन्तरित करने से संबंधित सिफारिशों को सिद्धान्त रूप से स्वीकार कर लिया गया है। एकीकृत भर्ती के तौर-तरीके निर्धारित करने के लिए उच्च स्तरीय समिति गठित की गई है। अन्य स्वीकृत सिफारिशों पर कार्रवाई करने के लिए, यदि आवश्यक हुआ, इसी प्रकार की समितियां गठित की जाएंगी, इस समय यह बताना संभव नहीं है कि इन्हें कब तक कार्यान्वित कर दिया जाएगा।

Improvement in the National Highway from Assam-West Bengal border to Guwahati

*528. DR. B. B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that segment of National Highway from Serampure near Assam—West Bengal border to Guwahati is the life line for entire North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to widen this National Highway making two-lanes either way alongwith other improvement to ensure uninterrupted vehicular traffic especially during flood seasons; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This stretch is an important link for traffic from West Bengal border to Guwahati in Assam and other States in the Norh-Eastern region.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to financial constraints, it is not possible to widen these National Highways to 4-lanes during the 8th Plan Period.

Death of birds and animals in Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park, Darjeeling

*529. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some rare species of birds and

animals kept preserved in Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park, Darjeeling have died in the past few years;

(b) if so, the names and number of such species died during the last three years;

(c) what were the reasons for such deaths; and

(d) what preventive and protective steps have been taken since then with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The year-wise, and species-wise number of rare animals that died during the past three years, the reasons of such death and measures taken to prevent unnatural deaths are explained in the Statement laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Species-wise number of animals died in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is as follows :

Names of the species	number of animals died during			
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	Total
MAMMALS:				
Snow Leopard	..	..	1	3
Siberian tiger	1	2	..	3
Himalayan black bear	..	1	1	2
Clouded leopard	..	..	1	1
Red Panda	..	..	1	1
Himalayan Palm Civet	..	..	1	1
Tibetan wolf	..	1	3	4
Leopard cat	1	..	..	1
Tahr	..	..	1	1
Serow	..	..	1	1
BIRDS:				
Tragopan	1	2	1	4
Peacock pheasant	..	..	4	4
Chir pheasant	..	..	1	1
	5	6	16	27

The reasons for death of these animals included old age, accident and infectious diseases. There were two cases of deaths due to unknown causes.

The measures taken to prevent death due to reasons other than natura causes include, inter alia, the following:

(i) A full time veterinary doctor looks after the health care and treatment of wild animals in captivity in the zoo.

(ii) Food materials supplied are thoroughly examined by the zoo authorities for their hygenic and nutritional values before giving them to the animals.

(iii) As and when required, the assistance of subject specialists in veterinary care is taken from outside the zoo.

(iv) Animals under treatment of contagious diseases are kept in clinical isolation from the others to prevent spreading of such diseases

Pakistan's capability of building Hiroshima Type Bombs

*530. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently the 'Los Angeles Times' reported that Pakistan has managed to build six to twelve Hiroshima type bombs;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government are also aware that these bombs could be used against India through F-16 plane which are proposed to be acquired by Pakistan from USA; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to face N-bomb threat from Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of Pakistan's clardestine weapons-oriented nuclear programme.

(c) The US Government are proposing to allow the transfer of, inter-alia, 38 F-16 aircraft to Pakistan which are generally capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

(d) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on national security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Unused High-tech gadgets imported by para-military forces

*531. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Pioneer report of 13th April, 1994 about expensive high-tech gadgetry imported by para-military forces, lying unused;

(b) the reasons for this criminal waste; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have seen the Pioneer report of 13th April, 1994.

(b) and (c) The equipment was not imported. It was procured from indigenous sources in the public sector. It is being properly utilized for the intended purpose.

Reconstitution of Oil Selection Boards

*532. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: